

2015 Massachusetts Trails Conference “Sustainable Trails for a Sustainable Future”



Saturday, November 14, 2015

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Double Tree Hotel and Conference Center by Hilton
Leominster, MA**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) in partnership with the Massachusetts Recreational Trail Advisory Board (MARTAB) presents the **2015 Massachusetts Trails Conference**, including field trips on Friday, November 13.

The conference is funded through the **Recreational Trails Program**, a grant program which supports trail and trail-related facility construction and enhancement projects across the Commonwealth.

To Register for the Conference and field trips, click here:

<https://2015masstrailsconference.eventbrite.com>

Details:

The daylong conference will include workshop sessions, continental breakfast and lunch. The cost is \$45. Woody Keen, owner of Trail Wisdom LLC and founder of Trail Dynamics, will be the keynote speaker. Woody has earned a national reputation for his work on innovative sustainable trail design and construction projects which have addressed the full spectrum of trail use, from

hiking and mountain biking to equestrian, off-highway vehicle and accessible trails. He is a trusted leader internationally and has more recently been working to educate trail professionals and volunteers on the concepts of building sustainable trails and how this is achieved.

Who Should Attend: Trail planners, advocates, managers, users, land trusts, conservation commissions, friends groups and volunteers interested in creating, managing and promoting sustainable trails for healthy communities.

Table/Display Opportunities: Trail organizations, consultants and other trail-related entities are invited to reserve a 6' skirted display table to set up informational displays. Table costs are \$25 for non-profits and \$50 for private entities. The deadline for reserving a table is **Friday, October 30**.

Field Trips on November 13

Half-day field trips are \$10 and the full-day is \$20 with lunch included on the full-day.

Transportation will be provided from the hotel to the site and back.

Field Trip 1: Half-Day (9am – 12pm) on Pine Hill Trail at Wachusett Mountain State Reservation
Steve Crowe of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Worcester Chapter will demonstrate some of the skilled work that is required to build the impressive Pine Hill Trail natural stone staircase, including a demonstration on splitting rock and discussion of other related rock work.

Field Trip 2: Half-Day (1pm – 4pm) at Barret Park in Leominster, MA
Dick O'Brien will lead a group on a hike through the network of trails at the City of Leominster's 75-acre Barret Park, where recent improvements as a result of receiving a PARC grant have served to provide safe and accessible trail experiences throughout the park. The Leominster Trail Stewards will join the group on the trails, for an interactive discussion around trail planning, construction, maintenance and other trail-related issues.

Field Trip 1: Full-Day (9am – 4pm) Bus Tour exploring Lancaster and Clinton Trails
Spend the day exploring Lancaster and Clinton learning about their cultural heritage and singular trails. Town planners and trail stewards will share how they are successfully visioning, implementing, linking, and funding recreational trail systems for diverse users. Site visit and walking locations will include the Cook Conservation Area along the Nashua River in Lancaster and the Rauscher Farm in Clinton.

2015 State Trail Award: We want you to help us recognize an individual or organization that is a leader in the trail community! The purpose of the award is to recognize someone or some entity that has had a significant impact on the Massachusetts trail scene, either past or present through their dedication, efforts and work on behalf of the Massachusetts trail network.

***Details:** Please email your nomination to Dobrien578@gmail.com. Nominations can be brief but must include the individual/group/organization name and a description of the work that has been accomplished for which you are nominating that person or entity. Photos and other supporting visuals are welcome. Please submit nominations by **Monday, October 6th**.*

TO REGISTER: Online registration is available at <https://2015masstrailsconference.eventbrite.com>
Please be prepared with credit card for the conference and field trip registration fee payment. If you are unable to register online, please call the Registration Administrator at 781-799-4406 or email melissa@mjhcomm.com. Conference information and updates can also be seen online at

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/services-and-assistance/grants-and-technical-assistance/conferences.html>

*Please contact us ahead of time if you have any special requirements or needs in order to attend the conference. Our goal is to provide this valuable engagement and learning opportunity for all trail advocates and enthusiasts across Massachusetts.

If you are not on the DCR Greenways and Trails contact list, please contact Amanda Lewis at Amanda.lewis@state.ma.us to be added and receive conference updates and other Massachusetts trail information.